

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended.

Office Action Summary

Claims 1-3 and 38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,963,255 of Anderson ("Anderson") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,211,649 of Matsuda ("Matsuda").

Claims 4-8 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but otherwise allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Status of Claims

At the time the Office Action was mailed, claims 1-18 and 38 were pending in the application, claims 9-18 having been withdrawn from consideration. In the present response, claims 1-3, 9-18 and 38 have been cancelled. Claim 4 has been amended. No new matter has been added. Therefore, claims 4-8 remain pending in the application.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-3 and 38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson in view of Matsuda ("Matsuda"). Claims 1-3 and 38 have been cancelled without prejudice, rendering the rejections moot.

Claim Objections

Claims 4-8 have been objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but otherwise allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the rejected base claim and intervening claims. Applicant notes that in a previous Office Action mailed July 14 2006, claims 4-8 were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form, prior to the amendment to claim 1 in applicant's response to the July 14, 2006 Office Action, which was filed on October 2, 2006. In the present response, applicant has amended claim 4 to include all of the limitations of claim 1 as it stood on July 14, 2006, and the limitations of intervening claims 2 and 3. No amendments to claims 5 through 8 are required, as these claims already depend from claim 4.

Conclusion

In conclusion, applicants respectfully submit that in view of the amendments set forth herein, the applicable objections and rejections have been overcome.

If the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Richard W. Thill at (408) 720-8300.

If there are any additional charges, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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Richard W. Thill
Registration No. 53,686

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300